

## **COLD OPEN**

ANNC: It is that time on the golf calendar for the annual visit to THE PLAYERS Stadium course at TPC Sawgrass.

NATS: Let's go, PLAYERS week baby.

RORY MCILROY: Seems like this tournament sort of gets bigger and better every year. It's a fun week. It's always a tough test.

COLLIN MORIKAWA: It's one of the best golf courses we play all year. You just have to play really, really good golf if you want to finish up on top.

ANNC: The first time the words two-time defending champion can be uttered at THE PLAYERS, so history awaits Scottie if he can three-peat.

SCOTTIE SCHEFFLER: It's great to have won this tournament the last two years, but at the end of the day, it's in the past. My goal is to be as prepared as possible when I step up on the first tee.

ANNC: Here we go at the 51st PLAYERS.

## **WELCOME TO THE CUT**

## **6<sup>TH</sup> HOLE REACTIONS**

**This year's edition of the players marks the return of a familiar feature to TPC Sawgrass, the controversial tree at the six-tee box was replanted, returning the course to Pete Dye's original vision.**

NATS: This is impossible for me to hit my 7 iron straight. Oh, dude. That's cool. I think three wood. Three wood? Oh yeah, that's a beauty there, really nice. It's a cool tree. it's great. The old tree kinda went like that, this one makes a little u shape there. Yeah baby. It's beautiful, really nice. It could be a little higher. It's mostly visual but, I mean, it changes the shot for sure, you have to put it lower. Let's put it lower, just like 10 feet. Yeah, might as well at this point. Golf's too easy, so you might as well make it tougher. Can you hit it over it? They had to have found another tree somewhere in front of it. Well, it's winning right now, after my two tee shots, the trees beating me very in play. Well, from the back of the tee box, it's in play. Yeah, talk about dicey if you hit it in the tournament. I mean, it can go anywhere. Somebody's gonna hit this

tree, sure. I mean, I'm impressed how accurate it is from the from the old one. It's crazy. They gave us like a comparison. It's just incredible. Who put that tree there.

### **THUR FRI RECAP**

ANNC: It's Round 1 of the PLAYERS Championship in 2025. 144 of the best in the world.

### **A MORNING HIGHLIGHTED BY AN EARLY LEAD FROM JORDAN SPIETH...**

ANNC: This is what we call Spiething. Oh my goodness!

### **MIN WOO LEE WOULD FINISH WITH A ROUND OF 67 AFTER AN ADVENTUROUS PAR ON 18, ONLY ONE-SHOT BACK.**

ANNC 18: Oh! One of the craziest fours you'll ever see at 18

LEE SOT: That third shot could have easily gone in the water had I just pulled it, but used a bit of magic and tried to cut up a pitching wedge out of the pine straw, and it was absolutely perfect.

### **SCOTTIE SCHEFFLER, LOOKING TO THREE PEAT, FINISHED HIS DAY THREE SHOTS OFF THE LEAD.**

### **LUCAS GLOVER, JJ SPAUN AND CAMILO VILLEGAS WOULD END THURSDAY TIED FOR THE LEAD BEFORE PLAY WAS SUSPENDED DUE TO DARKNESS.**

ANNC: Day two in the sunshine state, with conditions to prove it.

### **AFTER MISSING THE CUT AT HIS FIRST PLAYERS CHAMPIONSHIP IN 2024, AKSHAY BHATIA WOULD JOIN MIN WOO LEE AS A CO-LEADER.**

BHATIA SOT: It takes so much to win golf tournaments, especially a PLAYERS Championship. So I just got to carry that mentality into these next couple days.

### **TWO OTHER STARS WOULD PUT THEMSELVES JUST TWO SHOTS BACK HEADING INTO MOVING DAY...**

ANNC: For his ninth birdie today, Collin Morikawa. That club was the difference between yesterday's 2 under and today's 65.

ANNC RORY: Rory getting things off to a quick start. McIlroy finishes two back of the lead.

### **WITH WIND IN THE FORECAST FOR THE WEEKEND, THE 2019 PLAYERS CHAMPION IS READY FOR THE CHALLENGE.**

## **GRONK CADDIE**

ROB GRONKOWSKI SOT: Soon I'll just be like this.

WILL ZALATORIS SOT: Yeah, there we go.

ROB GRONKOWSKI SOT: It's like a keg. This is easy go the whole course, like this.

ROB GRONKOWSKI SOT: what is this? A par four, right?

WILL ZALATORIS SOT: It's a par five.

ROB GRONKOWSKI SOT: Par five. It's about 542 yards approximately away, and we're gonna use a driver here.

WILL ZALATORIS SOT: I like this.

ROB GRONKOWSKI SOT: That's beautiful.

WILL ZALATORIS SOT: That's where you wanted me to go.

ROB GRONKOWSKI SOT: That's exactly where I just said, Oh my gosh, I gotta carry this.

WILL ZALATORIS SOT: Do you know how to carry one of these?

ROB GRONKOWSKI SOT: No, I don't. What's the best way

WILL ZALATORIS SOT: you put this on your right shoulder. And then you got a little thing back here that'll help you on the left, so you balance it out.

ROB GRONKOWSKI SOT: All right, all right, good, yeah, cuz you gotta stay balanced. 200 yards. It's gotta be like a three iron, right?

WILL ZALATORIS SOT: A three I like it, yeah.

ROB GRONKOWSKI SOT: You like the irons, right?

WILL ZALATORIS SOT: I like the irons. All right, we got a little look at this. We got a little chip shot,

ROB GRONKOWSKI SOT: and we're gonna use, I want to use the three iron because you were doing a steph curry three but we're not gonna do that. You want to do that?

WILL ZALATORIS SOT: Well, I think I like it. Oh, no, don't go in the water. Don't go in the water. Don't go in the water. Stop, stop. Maybe a little too much club, but I think we're okay.

ROB GRONKOWSKI SOT: Here's the thing, I'm really not good at reading. Yeah, I was never good at reading.

WILL ZALATORIS SOT: Really.

ROB GRONKOWSKI SOT: Yeah. So this kind of translates, you know, you got, you got to hit the ball a little bit to the right, little bit to the right. Yeah, not much, not much, but just a little bit, probably, like two inches, I like it. Get it, get in. Wonderful job Will. that was an eagle, birdie, birdie. Hey, you see that island green over there? Yeah, I bet I can hit that. You bet you can hit that. I bet I can. Okay, right? So, am I going to show me how it's done? You want me to show you how I think you need to show me how it's done.

Do I get warm up swings or just go for it, go for it. Just go for it.

WILL ZALATORIS SOT: No. When have you ever warmed up?

ROB GRONKOWSKI SOT: You're right. Never have, oh, cut, come on. Cut, right. Cut, right. That was a good shot, though.

## **17 CADDIE ACE**

**Gronk's guest appearance on 17 was the highlight on Tuesday, but the spotlight on Wednesday belonged to another caddie.**

NATS: Be good. You must be third. Are you kidding me, are you not entertained?

JJ JAKOVAC SOT: This is the third shot I ever hit with that club. And I only hit two on the range this morning because Collin said, You got to practice. Both of them on the range were good. And then I was kind of afraid that it wasn't enough, because all the pros were hitting pitching wedges. But I was like the winds off the right. Just started out right and draw it with it. I knew it had to land right on the hole, and it came off perfect.

COLLIN MORIKAWA SOT: I've seen JJ hit a lot of good shots, and I knew to have it on. I mean, it was everything that's like, that's what you want to do.

## **WYNDHAM IMPACT**

WYNDHAM CLARK SOT: Hey, Olivia, it's Wyndham here. Sorry to hear about your leukemia but keep fighting. Stay strong and play big. Oh, that's awesome. I hope all the best for her. It's amazing what she's going through puts playing golf in perspective, that's for sure.

OLIVIA SCATURRO SOT: So I was following Wyndham two years ago, 2023 and me and my girlfriend just started chatting between holes and stuff, and he was super nice. And probably four months later, I got diagnosed with leukemia, and so I've been doing treatment this past

year and a half. Was in remission for about six months and then relapsed in December. So, I was just really looking forward to hoping you'll come to this tournament, and super glad I was able to today.

NATS: Wyndham, hey. so good to see you. Glad you could walk with us. Me too. How has it been? It's been great. How about you? More More important, I'm doing good. Thank you. So yeah, just knocking out treatments, and then I'll have my second bone marrow transplants in April, April 15, okay? And then a lot of the mental game, which you've learned, like, that's what I've totally loved watching about you, is just kind of your mental journey through all of this, and that's really, I'm using that right now to get me through these steps. And why about just like staying in the moment? You know 100% well, I need advice from you. You're you're dealing with your life. I'm just dealing with hitting the white golf ball. Well, now you got the bracelet, yeah? Inside it says, Live life. That's my mantra. Then you have your mothers on the other side, I love that. Yeah. Are you gonna come out watch this week? Yeah, yeah. I'm gonna rest the next few days. They called me today, and they're like, Oh, we might come in for treatment today. And I'm like, Yeah, but luckily, it worked out perfect. You can come in tomorrow. So good energy is really good. Alright. So nice person. You too. Good luck with your party back next year in so far. Well, please let me know how everything goes. Thank you. Perfect. Awesome. Again. You too, all right, play big this weekend, yeah, thank you.

### **PEETE'S CLUBS**

ROGER STEELE SOT: Today we're out here at the Players Championship, and we are celebrating the 40th year anniversary of Calvin Peete's win here at TPC Sawgrass. Now, in case you didn't know who Calvin Peete was, he is the most accurate driver of the golf ball and recorded PGA TOUR history with his highest year being almost 85% so what are we doing? We got some persimmon woods that Calvin Pete would have played. We got the belotta ball that he would have played, and we're gonna see if today's tour pros had what it took to be on tour back in the 80s.

NATS: Scottie, what's up, man, what memo did I miss back here? You missed a bit. You didn't read my email. Okay, that's cool. We just wanted to see it. The best player in the world could have been on the PGA TOUR back in the 80s. We'll see. Show us how it will be done. Back in the 80s. Put us in a time machine. Scottie would have still been the man. I'm just gonna play that one. Scottie would have still been the man. Even Ludwig hits it 30 feet in the air, I feel better. I think we're about 60% of fairways here. Get up. Sound like you hit it with a pillow. Just a little butter cut. Oh yeah, look at that. You know, I like to think that somewhere up there, Calvin Peete looking down right now, smiling on that shot. That was beautiful. That was beautiful all 220 yards.

## **CALVIN PEETE SWING THEORY**

NATS: balancing it all out, rotate a little bit more. Be aggressive in the ball. How hard I rotate. Get back to the fundamentals.

MARK IMMELMAN SOT: Calvin Peete, the 1985 Players champion and a 12-time winner on the PGA TOUR, known for his accuracy. Lee Trevino named him Xerox because he would snap out accurate shots so regularly.

ANNC: We call him Xerox. Everything is a copy.

MARK IMMELMAN SOT: So let's take a dive into the swing and how he would parlay this into perennially leading driving accuracy and greens in regulation statistics.

ANNC: If there was ever a man in control of this game, it's Calvin Peete

MARK IMMELMAN SOT: Now bear in mind as he moves into the back swing. There, you can see the ball well forward with the driver. That's good. Calvin only took up the game in his 20s, and when people look at the golf swing, they think, well, he's got a bent leading arm. Check that arm right over there. That is the function of a childhood injury that he suffered, and Calvin was unable to straighten that left arm. So in conversations, you can see, look at how bent it is at the top there. And as we come on down, you can see the body weight shift lead on pretty well bent there, very bent down there at contact and sort of chicken wingy-ish and a little bent on the through swing as he swings through. So when asked about the swing, because people wanted to know how he drove the ball that accurately. Calvin would reference his feet. He would say that the feet were sort of the engine for the golf swing. And on the back swing, the left foot, the lead foot, would roll inward toward the right, and on the down swing, the right foot would roll inward to the left under pressure. The thought was always tempo and bounce, so he was never hurried. Always gave that back swing time to complete. But watch the recenter move over there. Can you see how the upper body is a little in behind the golf ball here, and then as he begins to reach the top of the swing. Watch how there's that recentering move now, watch that forward foot. See, put some pressure in the ball of the foot there. Then, as he turns, starts to transition into the downswing. The heels plant, and there's that right foot rolling into the left. So basically, Calvin was ahead of all the folks who were researching ground reaction forces, watch how even with the upper body movement, the lower body is always out in front, always leading the action. There's pressure in the ball of the forward foot. Now it shifts towards the heel that breaks. That's the anchor. He described the left foot as the anchor for the golf swing, and when he was in the downswing, the goal was to never move that and can you see this beautiful harmony, this engine's guide, that is the good footwork, the legs, the feet were moving underneath. The head was stable, the arms would pass him by into that balanced finish every

single time. Sir Pete, surely, he would present a square club face to a good spring car. But it was all in the feet, the feet and the legs with a trigger to this fantastic golf swing

ANNC: right down the middle. John, that's, that's the way you drive the ball.

### **SATURDAY ROUND RECAP**

ANNC: Saturday at the greatest amphitheater in all of golf, the stadium course set. TPC Sawgrass, ready for its weekend starring role at the Players.

ANNC: Lucas Glover who's got a US Open championship title is looking for a Players championship on a resume.

**DESPITE AN UP AND DOWN ROUND, GLOVER STAYED IN THE HUNT THANKS TO NOT ONE, NOT TWO, BUT THREE CHIP IN'S**

ANNC: just when you least expect it your typical stadium stuff

**BUD CAULEY'S 66 WOULD HAVE HIM TIED FOR THE LOWEST SCORE ON THE DAY THANKS TO A CHIP IN OF HIS OWN**

ANNC: That hit perfectly on the flag stick or that still be rolling

**HE WOULD BIRDIE THREE OF THE FINAL FOUR HOLES TO SECURE HIS SPOT IN THE FINAL PAIRING ON SUNDAY**

ANNC: Bud Cauley is having a dream like weekend so far.

**ALSO LOOKING TO MAKE IT INTO THE FINAL GROUP...JJ SPAUN**

ANNC: Definitely wants to avoid back-to-back bogies. Well you can forget bogey he just made birdie

**AFTER A BOEGY ON 17, SPAUN WOULD AGAIN HAVE TO RESPOND BUT THIS TIME WITH A 24 FOOT PAR SAVING PUTT**

ANNC: got it, to grab the 54 hole lead

JJ SPAUN SOT: I've been playing really well this year so I can't say I'm particularly too surprised, but I'm definitely glad to be in a position to have a chance to win the golf tournament tomorrow. All I can do is keep pushing forward and see where we all add up tomorrow.

## **SERVPRO**

### **THE CUT PRESENTS THE CLIMB**

**AT THE 2023 PLAYERS CHAMPIONSHIP, TPC SAWGRASS GOT THE BEST OF TOM HOGE, WHO RECORDED A ROUND OF SIX-OVER 78 IN THE FIRST ROUND AND SAT TIED AT 133 ON THE LEADERBOARD.**

ANNC: Hoge needed a birdie here gotta get back on track, this'll get him to one over. Yeah, he's never missed the cut here.

**AFTER BOUNCING BACK WITH A ROUND OF 68 ON FRIDAY, HOGE MADE HISTORY ON SATURDAY, SETTING A NEW COURSE RECORD WITH A 10 UNDER 62.**

ANNC: He has that for 62. Yes. What a round for Tom Hoge. Look at the difference in Round one and Round three, we talked about how he was back up against it just to make the cut.

TOM HOGE SOT: Just felt fortunate and tried to take advantage of it the best I could. You got to hit it in certain positions and go from there. I feel like it's a golf course that's always suited me really well, just being that distance isn't as important; get the ball in play and then it's kind of a second-shot golf course.

**HOGE WOULD VAULT UP THE LEADERBOARD TO T3, FINISHING 130 SPOTS HIGHER THAN HIS THURSDAY FINISH.**

ANNC: Hoge working on a one under day. Wow, this guy's on fire. Still after 10 under par yesterday, he keeps going.

### **FINAL ROUND RECAP**

ANNC: An earlier than usual start to this championship Sunday at the players due to threatening weather in the forecast

**STARTING THE DAY JUST FOUR STROKES OFF THE LEADER...2019 PLAYERS CHAMPION...RORY MCILROY**

ANNC RORY EAGLE: This is a fantastic look. McIlroy moving up the board

ANNC: It's that time of day, they knew this was going to happen. That is it a suspension of play right now. it is take cover time.



**AFTER OVER A FOUR-HOUR WEATHER DELAY, PLAY FINALLY RESUMED WITH MCILROY HOLDING A ONE-SHOT LEAD OVER JJ SPAUN**

ANNC: looked like he was going hole it out for eagle, tap in birdie for Spaun and he is going to tie McIlroy

**IT WOULD ALL COME DOWN TO THE 18<sup>TH</sup>, A 30 FOOT PUTT TO SECURE THE WIN OR TWO PUTT TO FORCE A PLAYOFF**

ANNC: that close to the win, he's signed himself up for a three-hole aggregate playoff tomorrow, 16, 17, 18.

**THE FIRST PLAYOFF IN TEN YEARS AT THE PLAYERS CHAMPIONSHIP AND ONLY THE THRID TIME FINISHING ON SAINT PATRICKS DAY BUT LUCK WASN'T NEEDED FOR RORY MCILROY**

ANNC: Oh yes, gets to one under

**THE INFAMOUS 17 ISALND GREEN WOULD SHOW NO MERCY,**

ANNC: \*FANS SCREAMING\*

**SPAUN WOULD END UP CARDING A DOUBLE WHILE MCILROY WOULD THREE PUTT FOR BOGEY**

**WITH A THREE SHOT LEAD GOING INTO 18 AND DESPITE GOING RIGHT ON HIS DRIVE, MCILROY WOULD PLAY CONSERVATIVLY TO SECURE THE VICTORY**

ANNC: McIlroy has another title, world number two with his second and setting the table for what could be a very special year

**HE JUMPS SIX POSITIONS TO CLAIM THE TOP SPOT FOR THE FIRST TIME THIS SEASON IN THE COMCAST BUSINESS TOUR TOP 10 THANKS IN LARGE PART TO HIS CONSISTENT AND RELIABLE PLAY**

RORY MCILROY SOT: People say pressure is a privilege, and it really is. You want to feel like that on the course. That's why I spend the time//trying to master my craft, that you get yourself in those positions to see what you're made of.

FEDEXCUP STANDINGS FULL SCREEN

**THIS WILL BE THE 8TH TIME AN INTERNATIONAL PLAYER HAS WON ON TOUR THIS YEAR WITH MCILROY LEADING THE CHARGE WITH TWO WINS AFTER CLAIMING THE AT&T PEBBLE BEACH PRO-AM BACK IN FEBRUARY**

## **WINNER ROLLOUT**

ANNC: this is his 28<sup>th</sup> win on the PGA TOUR. Rory the trophy is yours, congratulations on an outstanding performance. And as is the tradition we hoist the flag of the current players champion and so let's raise the flag of Northern Ireland for Rory McIlroy the 2025 the players' champion